

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Please cancel claims 17-20 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.**

**Please amend the claims as follows:**

*sub* 1. (Amended) A filter for a cigarette, comprising an assembly of:  
a cylindrical filtering core;  
a tubular filtering sheath surrounding said core, and provided between said core and said sheath are passages,  
wherein said passages are spaced circumferentially around said core and extending continuously between open ends at the two ends of the assembly and;  
a tipping paper surrounding said filter.

2. (Amended) The filter according to claim 1, wherein said sheath has a thickness of 1 to 3 mm, such that a ratio of a diameter of said core to the thickness of said sheath is from 0.7 to 6.

3. (Twice Amended) The filter according to claim 1, wherein said sheath has an axial air-flow resistance higher than that of said core.

4. (Twice Amended) The filter according to claim 1, further comprises means for introducing air into said passages through said sheath.

5. (Twice Amended) The filter according to claim 1, wherein said core has a plurality of longitudinal grooves at an outer peripheral surface thereof, and said passages are defined between the longitudinal grooves and an inner peripheral surface of said sheath.

B<sup>2</sup> 6. (Amended) The filter according to claim 5, wherein the longitudinal grooves are provided by a thermoformed outer peripheral surface of said core or by a corrugated wrapper or a grooved tubular element at the outer peripheral surface of said core.

7. (Amended) The filter according to claim 6, wherein both the inner and outer peripheral surfaces of said sheath are air permeable.

8. (Twice Amended) The filter according to claim 1, wherein said sheath has a plurality of longitudinal grooves at an inner peripheral surface thereof, and said passages are defined between the longitudinal grooves and an outer peripheral surface of said core.

9. (Amended) The filter according to claim 8, wherein the longitudinal grooves are provided by a thermoformed inner peripheral surface of said sheath or by a corrugated wrapper or a grooved tubular element at the inner peripheral surface of said sheath.

10. (Amended) The filter according to claim 9, wherein both the inner and outer peripheral surfaces of said sheath are air permeable.

11. (Twice Amended) The filter according to claim 1, further comprises a cylindrical corrugated wrapper arranged between said core and said sheath, said passages being defined between said corrugated wrapper and said core and between said corrugated wrapper and said sheath.

B<sup>2</sup>  
12. (Twice Amended) The filter according to claim 1 further comprises a tubular element arranged between said core and said sheath and having said passages therein.

13. (Amended) The filter according to claim 12, wherein both the inner and outer peripheral surfaces of said sheath are air permeable, and openings are formed in said tubular element in communication with said passages.

14. (Twice Amended) The filter according to claim 1, wherein the passages have a total cross-sectional area of 1 to 3 mm<sup>2</sup>.

15. (Twice Amended) The filter according to claim 1, wherein the assembly is in longitudinal alignment with a cylindrical tip element, said tip element having a length from 2 to 20 mm which is correspondingly from 8 to 60%

of an overall length of said filter, and an axial air-flow resistance of 80 or less mmH<sub>2</sub>O/25 mm.

B<sup>2</sup> 16. (Amended) The filter according to claim 1, wherein said tipping paper is air permeable.

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**Please add the following claims:**

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--21. The filter according to claim 1, wherein said passages are 3 to 25.

B<sup>3</sup> 22. The filter according to claim 9, wherein the outer peripheral surface of said sheath is air-permeable, and openings are formed in said tubular element in communication with the longitudinal grooves.--

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